Upgradation of Rajkot airport

1498. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AAI is to acquire land from the railway authroity for the purpose of upgradation of Rajkot airport;

(b) whether the railway authority has agreed to give land to the AAI and by when the land will be transferred from railway authority;

(c) whether it is a fact that AAI has prepared a development plan of Rs. 60 crores for upgradation of Rajkot airport; and

(d) by when the AAI proposes to complete that work of upgradation at Rajkot airport?

THE MINISTER OF SATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railway Authorities had not earlier agreed to provide the land. However, they are being pursuaded to reconsider the matter.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Initiation of upgradation works by Airports Authority of India (AAI) is subject to land being made available by the Railway Authorities and diversion of Rajkot-Jamnagar Highway by the State Government of Gujarat.

Foreign pilots in aviation sector

1499. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of private airlines have been permitted to operate within and outside India;

(b) if so, the details of private airlines permitted thus during the last three years, with number of aircrafts in possession of each airlines and sectors operated by them;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of trained pilots in the country;